

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the application are respectfully requested in view of the remarks herewith, which place the application into condition for allowance.

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS AND FORMAL MATTERS

Claims 2-12 are currently pending. Claims 5 and 8-9 were previously withdrawn as directed to a non-elected species without prejudice or surrender of subject matter. Claim 10 is independent.

II. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 2-4, 6, 7, and 10-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,352,349 to Hennequin.

Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Independent claim 10 recites, *inter alia*:

“wherein the first mounting part and the second mounting part each support the winding drum.

Thus, in an aspect of the present invention as recited in claim 10, there are two mounting parts: a first mounting part and a second mounting part. In addition to forming a through hole when assembled, the first and second mounting parts each also function to support the winding drum.

The Office Action asserts Hannequin describes, in relevant part, a Venetian blind having an operating shaft 2 (allegedly corresponding to Applicant's winding drum) supported by upper part 3, lower part 4, partition 11 and end wall 12 (allegedly corresponding to Applicant's first mounting part and second mounting part). However, this is a misinterpretation of the assembly of Hannequin. FIGS. 1 and 3 of Hannequin clearly show part 11 is a "partition wall" and not a supporting part for the operating shaft 2. Hannequin's partition wall 11 (and end wall 12) functions to form separated slots for the ladder cords 13 and lift cord 14 to pass therethrough. *Hannequin*, col. 2, lines 63-66. There is no suggestion from either the figures or the specification the partition wall 11 provides support for the operating shaft 2.

In Hannequin, only upper part 3 and lower part 4 are supporting parts. The upper and lower parts do not provide a through hole when assembled. It is clear from Hannequin's FIGS. 1 and 3, parts 3 and 4 are the support for the operating shaft 2 and do not provide a through hole for cords 13 and 14.

That is, Hannequin's partition wall 11 forms a hole for passage of a cord but does not also support the operating shaft 2. Hence, there are not a first mounting part and a second mounting part that both (1) create a through hole for the passage of the cords, and also (2) support the operating shaft.

In contrast, claim 10 recites, "a first mounting part . . . a second mounting part assembled to the first mounting part, said first mounting part and said second mounting part shaped to provide a through hole when assembled . . . wherein the first mounting part and the second mounting part each support the winding drum. In addition to forming a through hole when assembled, the first and second mounting parts each also function to support the winding drum."

Hence, claim 10 is not anticipated by Hannequin because that reference does not disclose each and every element recited in the claim.

III. DEPENDENT CLAIMS

The other claims are dependent from claim 10 as discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for at least the same reasons. Because each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

Claims 2-4, 6, 7, and 10-12 are in condition for allowance. In the event the Examiner disagrees with any of statements appearing above with respect to the disclosure in the cited reference, or references, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner specifically indicate those portions of the reference, or references, providing the basis for a contrary view.

Please charge any additional fees that may be needed, and credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is believed that all of the claims in this application are patentable and Applicant respectfully requests early passage to issue of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

FROMMER LAWRENCE & HAUG LLP
Attorneys for Applicants

By: 

Paul A. Levy
Reg. No. 45,748
(212) 588-0800